

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /136 W

----- 042851

R 211738Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0427

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1904

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, MASS, EC, PE

SUBJ: PERUVIANS ALLEGE TENDENTIOUS NEWS REPORTING

1. MARCH 21 QUITO DAILY EL TIEMPO CARRIES PERUVAIN EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE WHICH DENOUNCES WHAT IT CALLS TENDENTIOUS PRESS REPORTING OF PAST SEVERAL WEEKS DESIGNED TO DENIGRATE PERUVIAN PRESIDENT VELASCO'S REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL INITIATIVE. PLACING BLAME PRINCIPALLY ON FOREIGN NEWS SOURCES, STATEMENT SAYS THAT THIS IS PART OF CAMPAIGN TO REVIVE DISTRUST BETWEEN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. PRESS RELEASE GOES ON TO SAY THAT ARMAMENT IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH ANDEAN INTEGRATION AND THE EFFECTIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION.

2. ON SUBJECT OF RECENT ARMS ACQUISITIONS FROM SOVIETS, RELEASE ALLEGES THAT PRESS REPORTING IN QUESTION IS ALSO SEEKING TO CONVINCE PUBLIC OPINION THAT PERU HAS BECOME A SOVIET BRIDGEHEAD IN LATIN AMERICA. STATEMENT DENIES THAT PERU IS OR EVER WILL BE A BASE FOR ANY FOREIGN POWER AND ASSERTS THAT RECENT PURCHASE OF SOVIET TANKS REFLECTS "PERUVIAN CONCEPT OF SOVEREIGNTY AND ITS DESIRE NOT TO DEPEND ON ONE SINGLY COUNTRY." MOREOVER, RECENT PERUVIAN ARMS ACQUISITIONS HAVE BEEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF
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REPLACING OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT RATHER THAN AUGMENTING THE

COUNTRY'S ARSENAL.

3. COMMENT: GOE CAN BE EXPECTED TO VIEW FOREGOING PERUVIAN STATEMENT WITH CYNICISM AND AS PART OF CONTINUING GOP CAMPAIGN TO PRE-EMPT ANY NEW ARMS PURCHASES BY ECUADOREANS. PERUVIAN OFFICIALS SERVING HERE ARE WELL PLUGGED IN TO VARIOUS GOE DEPARTMENTS AND ARE, THEREFORE, NO DOUBT AWARE THAT WITH LIFTING OF FMS SANCTIONS, ECUADOREANS ARE AT THIS VERY MOMENT EXPLORING IMPORTANT ARMS PURCHASES FROM US. THUS, WHILE ABOVE MENTIONED PRESS RELEASE MAY HAVE BEEN CIRCULATED IN OTHER CAPITALS OF THE REGION, ECUADOR WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL TARGETS.
BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PROCUREMENT, ARMS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974QUITO01904
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740060-0915
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740326/aaaaaxwq.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PERUVIANS ALLEGE TENDENTIOUS NEWS REPORTING
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, MASS, EC, PE, UR, (VELASCO ALVARADO, JUAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005